

## T04-O-06

### Gender identity conflicts and psychological problems in adult subjects with different forms of intersexuality (disorders of sex development, dsd): the Hamburg Intersex project

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Our knowledge of the treatment options and long-term outcomes with different forms of intersexuality is insufficient. The demand for life long follow-up studies asks for more than surgical outcomes data. The objective of the Hamburg follow-up study is not only to gather information about physical development and treatment experiences of individuals with different forms of intersexuality but also about their gender identity problems, social life and especially about their psychological problems and well-being.

A comprehensive questionnaire was developed that comprises standardized as well as self-constructed instruments. The instruments assessed demographic aspects, physical and sexual development, diagnostic procedures hormonal and surgical treatment interventions, gender identity, gender role, psychological impairments.

The sample includes 70 subjects with partial or complete androgen insensitivity, disturbances of androgen biosynthesis, gonadal dysgenesis (46, XY karyotype; so called XY women) and subjects with CAH (46, XX karyotype).

Gender identity conflicts in intersex subjects living in the female role will be described. Optimal treatment policy demands a stable Gender identity in adulthood. This is the basic assumption for medical treatment procedures. Encouraged by the public discussion and by members of support groups many subjects ask for a more flexible view of gender identity and sexual health.

From our data one can conclude that not all subjects finally want to live in a clear male or female gender role as adults. Not all of them want heterosexual relationships with the possibility of having heterosexual intercourse with penetration. The option of medical treatment procedures of sex assignment surgeries will be discussed.

## T04-O-07

### Clinical evaluation of pre and post surgical transsexuals at Santa Maria University Hospital, Lisbon, Portugal

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The purpose of this investigation was to analyse in detail demographic, clinical characteristics, psychosocial factors and sexual behavioural features of 49 pre and post-surgical transsexuals divided in two subgroups: 28 FTM and 21 MTF

followed by the interdisciplinary Gender Identity Clinic at Santa Maria Hospital, the only one of the Portuguese National Health Services responsible for the global process including sex reassignment surgery.

From an original group of 59 transsexuals diagnosed according to ICD-10 criteria we studied 28 FTM transsexuals age range: 14-60; mean age 37.3±5.0 years and 21 MTF transsexuals ranging between 14-51 years; mean age 33.8±4.3 years. The remainder was not object of analysis in this work. All the patients were evaluated in a clinical manner and a semi-structured Sexual History Interview was done. To study in detail the subjects a Portuguese version of specific instruments for transsexuals were used namely: Feminine Gender Identity Scale; Masculine Gender Identity Scale; Cross-Gender Fetishism Scale; Gender Identity Profile; Standardized Rating Format for Pre and Post-Surgical Transsexuals and Minnesota Multiphasic Personality Inventory-2.

The main data of this study indicates that transsexuals FTM are more prevalent than transsexuals MTF (3:2) and has a better psychosocial and sexual adjustment in pre- and post-surgical stages and also a better prognosis after complete surgery, aspects that will be discussed in detail in our communication.

## T04-O-08

### Importance of clinical support for the well being of transgender individuals with the history of suicide

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Transgendered individuals are discriminated in their family, school and workplace environments. These conditions are risk factors for depression, isolation, and suicide.

**Aim:** In this study we analyzed the suicide thoughts and attempts in a long-term follow up of a transgender group who applied to a psychiatry clinic.

**Method:** We investigated transgendered individuals who applied to Istanbul Faculty of Medicine, Psychiatry Department. They are followed up with both individual and group psychotherapy for two years. Also, family counseling meetings are conducted twice a year.

In these groups the topics family relationships, medical problems, relationships, work problems, financial issues, religious concerns, the transgender image reflected in the media. Groups also serve as self-help groups, the process of self-acceptance and opening up is accelerated.

**Findings:** High rates of life time suicide thoughts (44,2%), attempts (24,7%) have been observed. In some cases suicide attempts were the reason of their application to clinic and can be seen as a help seeking behavior. No suicide attempt was reported within the follow up period and after the sex reassignment surgery.

**Discussion:** The societies that sexuality is still a taboo, the transgendered individuals are being exposed to discrim-

ination. These conditions may cause isolation, a reason to estrange themselves from social life and suicide attempts.

The group experience is very helpful in the process of self-acceptance and to learn problem-solving, as it enables transgender people who hide their true identities in their daily lives to get together with other people who go through the same things as they do.

## T04-P-01

### Sex reassignment: comparing expert reports

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The present study draws from a previous research conducted in several Italian Courts. The present research explores how the expert reports are conducted on the sex reassignment. The Italian law 164/82 on the sex reassignment provides that the judge, where he considers appropriate, set an expert report. The expert can use several tools on the basis of his/her professional background.

**Objective:** The aim of this study is to highlight which psychological tests are used during the expert reports and to relate them with the different experts. For this aim Courts where request for sex reassignments were chosen and, in particular, those Courts where an expert report was present. Finally, the association between type of surgical intervention and type of test was examined.

**Design and method:** Archival data collection was used. Committed Courts were identified as well as different experts who reported the assessment along with instruments adopted.

**Results:** Correspondence analysis showed a different pattern of association among the several test and practitioners. The first dimension discriminated general personality tests from those specific, as well as psychiatrists and forensic scientist from psychologist. The second dimension separated qualitatively general personality tests from those with psychopathological framework.

**Conclusions:** Psychologists, forensic scientist and psychiatrists showed different profiles in using psychological tests for the issue. The analysis of spatial configuration highlighted that forensic scientist use more of psychopathological personality tests. Instead, psychiatrists seemed to use more general tests. Finally, psychologists, seemed to use more specific instruments related with the measurement of gender identity.

## T04-P-02

### A social and psychological view of transgenderism: measuring discrepancy group-person in the discrimination, self-esteem, optimism and big five in MtF

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**Objective:** At the Italian Institute of Scientific Sexology in Rome our team collected information on the adversity, emergencies and prejudices against transgenderism. The aim of this study was to determine the degree of perceived group-person discrimination, self-esteem and optimism among transsexual men and moreover, to measure the perceived discrimination in relation to self-esteem, Big Five and optimism in this clinical group.

**Method:** The study sample consisted of 100 individuals (including 30 MtF) by convenience sampling. Respondents were asked to complete a questionnaire with several measures, including perceived discrimination. In-group social interaction and Big Five were assessed with a measure for a fast screening of the Five Factor Model (FFM).

**Results:** Transsexual men reported greater perceived group discrimination but a smaller perceived person discrimination, according to the Discrepancy group-person discrimination theory. Preliminary results showed that the clinical population (N=30) differs significantly from the non clinical population (N=30 randomly selected). Significant predictors of perceived discrimination were found.

**Conclusions:** Seeing the procedure of the research in progress and evaluating the importance to give results only at the end of the pilot-study, we believe that in addition, it would be useful to illustrate the development of the study and the construction of the protocols. Discriminant Analyses are currently still in progress with a larger sample.

## T04-P-03

### Gender identity disorder and psychiatric comorbidity: a descriptive study

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**Objectives:** The presence of psychiatric comorbidity in patients with Gender Identity Disorder (GID) is still a matter of debate. In particular the relationship between Gender Identity Disorder and severe psychopathology is a vexed (non conosco questo termine) question.

The aim of this study is to investigate the presence of psychiatric comorbidity in a G.I.D. sample.

**Materials and Method:** Our sample was composed of 95 patients attending to CIDIGeM, a Public Health Service for GID people, to enter the program for Sex Reassignment Surgery.

According to international standard of care, all the patients underwent an accurate diagnosis about their gender disorder for 6 months, in order to investigate the comorbid psychiatric condition and to ascertain eligibility and readiness for hormone and surgical therapy.

We assessed all the patients with psychological and psychiatric interviews and particularly with Semi-Structured Clinical Interview (SCID I-II) to investigate Axis I-II disorders.